REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of Entry in Register:	13 June 1995
Name of Applicant/Court:	Comptroller of Customs
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Knife Fighting Combat Techniques Volume Three
Other Known Titles:	Not Stated
Director:	Joseph Jennings
Producer:	Joseph Jennings
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author:	Not Applicable
Medium:	Video Recording
Format:	VHS/NTSC
Country of Origin:	USA
Language:	English

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Components of film originally examined:

Feature:	Knife Fighting Combat Techniques Volume Three	Running time:	81:23
Trailers:	US Copyright Notice	Running time:	00:11
	Disclaimer Notice	Running time:	00:22
		Running time:	
		Running time:	
		Total Running Time:	81:56

Excision/Alteration: No

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

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OFLC Ref: 000989

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display conditions:

Not Applicable.

Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has not been given.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The publication as a whole promotes the infliction of extreme violence. It does this by showing and discussing numerous techniques for killing and severely injuring people, in the context of fights involving knives. These themes run throughout the feature which occupies the bulk of the publication. The techniques for killing and maiming are presented in a serious, detailed and didactic manner.

The submission from the importer describes that person as a trainer of both public and private sector organizations in unarmed combat and self defence. The submission states that the importer has been previously contracted to train members of the New Zealand Defence Force in close quarter battle; this is confirmed by information received from the New Zealand Defence Force. The submission states the materials have been sent to the importer to evaluate, with the possibility that they may be used in such training.

Other assistance was sought from the New Zealand Police Force, who were concerned at the way the materials depicted violent acts, and stated their opinion that the general availability of the materials would be detrimental to the public good. The New Zealand Defence Force was also of the opinion that the material should not be available to private individuals.

Under s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (the Bill of Rights Act), the importer has the “freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and opinions of any kind in any form.” Under Section 5 of the Bill of Rights Act, the importer’s access to the publications can only be restricted by “such reasonable limits as can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society”. As discussed under the relevant criteria, and in the light of the assistance obtained, the Classification Office is of the opinion that the video recording promotes the infliction of extreme violence (s3(2)(f) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993). Accordingly, the availability of this video recording is likely to be injurious to the public good. In accordance with s3(2) of the Act, the video recording is classified as objectionable.